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His Majesties

MOST GRACIOUS

SPEECH

To both Houses of

PARLIAMENT,

On *Thursday* the 16th Day of *November*, 1699.

LONDON,
Printed by *Charles Bill*, and the Executrix of *Thomas Newcomb*, deceas'd, Printers to the Kings most Excellent Majesty. 1699.

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My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Hope you will not think I have Called you out of your Countreys too soon, if you consider that Our common Security requires a farther Provision should be made for the Safety of the Kingdom by Sea and Land, before We are at the End of what was Granted for that Purpose the last Session. And when you Enter upon this Business, I Believe you will think it Necessary to take Care of the Repairs of the Ships, and of the Fortifications, without which Our Fleet cannot be Safe, when it is in Harbour.

I cannot Omit to put you in mind of another Matter, in which so great a Number of My Subjects is concerned, and wherein the Honour of the Kingdom and the Faith of Parliaments is so far Engaged, that Our future Security seems to Depend upon it; I Mean, the making good the Deficiencies of the Fonds, and the Discharging the Debts contracted by reason of the War. And till We may be so happy to see the Publick Debts paid, I shall Hope, that no Session will end without something done towards Lessening them. While I am speaking to you on this Head, I think My Self obliged to Mention, with a very particular Concern, a Debt which is Owing to the Prince of *Denmark*, the State whereof I have Ordered to be laid before you.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

These things are of such importance, that I must earnestly Recommend them to your Consideration, and desire you to Provide the Necessary Supplies.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

There is nothing I should more Rejoyce in, than that I were not under the Necessity of so often Asking Aids of My People; but as the Reason of it is evident, because the Fonds formerly

applied to Defray the Publick Expence are now anticipated for Payment of the Debts of the Kingdom; ſo it is My Satisfaction that you all ſee, that nothing of what is Demanded is for any Perſonal Uſe of Mine. And I do faithfully Aſſure you, that no Part of what is given ſhall be diverted from any Purpoſe for which it is deſigned.

I believe the Nation is already ſenſible of the good Effects of Peace, by the manifeſt Increaſe of Trade, which I ſhall make it My Buſineſs to Incourage by all means in My Power. Probably it might receive an Advantage, if ſome good Bill were prepared for the more effectual Preventing and Puniſhing Unlawful and Clandeſtine Trading; which does not only tend to Defraud the Publick, but Prejudices the fair Merchant, and Diſcourages Our own Manufactures.

The Increaſe of the Poor is become a Burden to the Kingdom, and their looſe and idle Life does in ſome meaſure contribute to that Depravation of Manners, which is complained of, (I fear with too much Reaſon) whether the Ground of this Evil be from Defects in the Laws already made, or in the Execution of them, deſerves your Conſideration. As it is an indiſpenſable Duty, that the Poor, who are not able to help themſelves, ſhould be maintain'd, ſo I cannot but think it extremely Deſirable, that ſuch as are able and willing ſhould not want Imployment, and ſuch as are obſtinate and unwilling ſhould be compell'd to Labour.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have a full Aſſurance of the good Affections of My People, which I ſhall endeavour to Preſerve by a conſtant Care of their juſt Rights and Liberties; by Maintaining the Eſtabliſhed Religion; by ſeeing the Courſe of Juſtice kept ſteady and equal; the Countenancing Virtue, and Diſcouraging Vice; and by Declining no Difficulties or Dangers where their Welfare and Proſperity may be concerned.

Theſe are my Reſolutions, and I am perſwaded that you are come together with Purpoſes on your Part, ſuitable to theſe on Mine. Since then Our Aims are only for the general Good, let Us Act with Confidence in one another; which will not fail, by Gods Bleſſing, to make Me a Happy King, and you a Great and Flouriſhing People.

FINIS.